



Pending claims as of 02/11/2011:

1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

at least one port component through which an end user needs to be authenticated and authorized in order to access a network resource via a network provider's network, the port component being able to enforce an access policy and to apply rules of a service provider of the end user during the end user's use of the network provider's network;

at least one first director component communicatively coupled to the port component to provide the access policy to be used in connection with the network provider's grant of access to its network;

at least one second director component communicatively coupled to the first director component to ~~provide~~return the access policy to the first director component in connection with the ~~service provider's~~user's request for access to the network provider's network ~~on behalf of its end user~~ and in connection with authentication and authorization of the end user;

at least one port component and first director component combined into a single machine configuration or alternatively one port component as a distinct machine configuration and one first director component as a distinct machine configuration;

and a home provider register (HPR) component communicatively coupled to the first director component to be used by the first director component in connection with determination of a service provider of the end user.

Claims 2-13 (Canceled)

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one of the following network sharing components:

a PartnerAccept component that identifies pre-negotiated cross-license terms between the network provider and the service provider;

a billing component wherein end-user usage metrics collected by the port component are transmitted to the network provider and the service provider for accounting purposes;

a Clearinghouse component to coordinate and ensure payment to the network provider from the service provider as a result of allowing access to the end user;

an AutoAccept component to determine a minimum compensation that a network provider will accept to allow access to its network by end users of the service provider;

an AutoPay component to determine a maximum compensation that a service provider will pay to allow its users to access a network provider's network; a first AutoRefuse component to specify service providers whose end users are banned from accessing a network provider's network; and

a second AutoRefuse component to specify network providers whose networks are banned from use by a service provider's end users.

Claims 15-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

authenticating and authorizing a user to access a network resource via a network provider's network;

providing an access policy to be used in connection with the authenticating and authorizing;

determining a service provider of the user, the service provider not being substantially involved having any means to enforce policy in managing use of the network provider's network; and

enforcing the access policy and applying rules of the service provider during the user's use of the network provider's network.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 wherein providing the access policy includes providing the access policy based on data from a business support system.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising communicating between different director components to obtain service provider rules and access policies.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising implementing either a new ~~or existing~~ network share agreement between the network provider and the service provider.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein implementing the new network share agreement including implementing terms of the new network share agreement only for the duration of the end user's use of the network provider's network.

Claims 43-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising implementing at least one of the following service payment components:

~~a PartnerAccept component that identifies pre-negotiated cross-license terms between network providers and service providers;~~

a billing component that distributes accounting information to the service provider and the network provider as a result of allowing access to the end user

a clearinghouse component to coordinate and attempt to ensure payment to the network provider from the service provider as a result of allowing access to the end user;

an AutoAccept component to determine a minimum compensation that a network provider will accept to allow access to its network by a service provider's end users;

an AutoPay component to determine a maximum compensation that a service provider will pay to allow its end users to access a network provider's network;

a first AutoRefuse component to specify service providers whose end users are banned from accessing a network provider's network; and

a second AutoRefuse component to specify network providers whose networks are banned for use by a service provider's end users.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, further comprising implementing an all access pass to allow the end user to access any network provider's network subject to billing policies of these network providers, provided that at least one of the AutoRefuse components does not negate a network share between the network provider and the service provider.

Claims 47- 50 (Cancelled)

51. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising implementing different pricing policies for different port components that can be used by the end user to access the network provider's network.

52-57 (Cancelled)

58. (New) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a non-transitory storage medium having instructions stored thereon to initiate implementation of a new network share agreement between the network provider and the service provider where no prior relationship existed;